

April 1, 2003

Kenneth E. May, Mine Manager
Canyon Fuel Company, LLC
397 South 800 West
Salina, Utah 84654

Re: Transmittal of Forest Service Comments on Link Canyon Portal Amendment, Canyon Fuel Company, LLC, SUFCO Mine, C/041/002-AM02E, Outgoing File

Dear Mr. May:

The Division approved the amendment for constructing and utilizing a portal in the Link Canyon area on January 21, 2003. Shortly thereafter, we received comments from the Manti-La Sal National Forest Supervisor's Office (the surface managing agency) regarding this project. The purpose of this letter is to forward these comments to your office. A copy of the Forest Service letter is enclosed. We recognize that some of the comments may no longer apply since much of the work has already been completed. We encourage you to work closely with the Division and the Forest Service in resolving the remaining issues. Please call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Daron R. Haddock
Permit Supervisor

an
Enclosure
cc: Manti LaSal National Forest
Price Field Office
O:\041002.CON\FINAL\fscomments02E.doc



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Manti-La Sal
National Forest

Supervisor's Office
599 West Price River Drive
Price, UT 84501
Phone # (435) 637-2817
Fax # (435) 637-4940

File Code: 2820-4

Date: January 21, 2003

Mary Ann Wright
State of Utah Department of Natural Resources
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
P.O. Box 145801
Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0155

RECEIVED

JAN 24 2003

DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

FAX PFO

Dear Mary Ann:

We have reviewed the SUFCO Mine Plan amendment submitted by Canyon Fuel Company, LLC proposing to reopen the west portal of the old Link Canyon Mine in Link Canyon on Federal Coal Lease UTU-76195.

Our required environmental analysis has been completed and a Record of Decision was released by the Manti-La Sal National Forest on October 9, 2002, which was subsequently appealed by the Utah Environmental Congress. The Forest Supervisor's decision was affirmed by our appeals deciding officer on January 8, 2003.

We consent to the SUFCO Mine Plan Amendment subject to the following conditions:

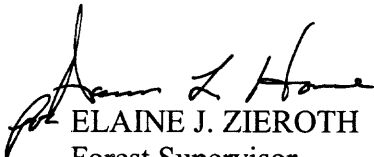
1. Operations may begin on or after January 24, 2003 (15 days after affirmation of the decision).
2. The operator will improve the Link Canyon spring development area above the Link Canyon Mine to protect and enhance the riparian area. A pole fence must be constructed and maintained for the duration of mining activities per FS specifications. The purpose of this is to enhance the riparian area and the natural growth and propagation of the FS sensitive Link Canyon columbine. In addition, a native-stone erosion control device must be constructed across the drainage that will control and prevent erosion of the area. Plans for conducting this work are subject to approval by the Manti-La Sal National Forest and the work must be conducted during the 2003 field season.
3. Baseline water quality samples will be taken on a weekly basis for four weeks to determine water quality. The operator will monitor and report flow from the Link Canyon mine portals on a daily basis during construction of the portal pad and access road. Once construction is completed and the mains to the portals are driven and completed, flow and quality of water from the Link Canyon portals must be monitored (frequency and parameters) in conjunction with the approved MRP.
4. Measures must be taken to perpetuate historic flows of water (quality and quantity) from the Link Canyon portals for the life of operations and during the liability period associated with reclamation of mining disturbances.



5. The operator must obtain a Forest Service Road-use Permit for commercial use of the Link Canyon Road (Forest Service Road 50044) prior to initiating work on the project.
6. Prior to any excavation work for the road and portal pad, sediment control devices must be placed between the area to be disturbed and Link Canyon Creek to prevent sediment and debris produced during excavation from entering the stream channel and adjacent riparian areas. Additionally, sediment control devices must be placed in Link Canyon Creek immediately downstream of the area being disturbed for culvert and associated riprap installation. Sediment and/or debris collected by control devices will be removed to appropriate disposal areas prior to sediment control device removal.
7. A gate with associated signage (FS specifications) is to be placed on the proposed access road. This gate is to be maintained in good operational condition and kept shut except for when needed for access.

If you have any questions or need additional information, contact Tom Lloyd, District Geologist, Ferron-Price Ranger District, Ferron, Utah at 435-384-2372.

Sincerely,


ELAINE J. ZIEROTH
Forest Supervisor

cc:

Ken May, Canyon Fuel Company, SUFCO Mine
Sally Wisely, BLM Utah State Office
D-2/3